# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:549
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2003
POLICY ON CHILDREN
K. MALAISAMY

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have felt the need for a comprehensive policy and mechanism for the protection, care, welfare, development and rehabilitation of the juveniles and children;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard; and

(c) the policy formulated to check the inadequacies that exist in the present system?

## Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a),(b)&(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a),(b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 549 FOR 29.4.2003 REGARDING POLICY ON CHILDREN BY SHRI K. MALAISAMY

(a),(b)&(c) The National Policy for Children, 1974 is a comprehensive document that elaborates the commitment of Government 'to provide adequate services for children, both before and after birth and through the period of growth to ensure their full physical, mental and social development.'

Pursuant to this and to give effect to the objectives of the National Policy for Children, several National policies and programmes for children were put in place, such as, the National Health Policy (1983), National Policy on Child Labour (1987), The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Child Labour Programme and Integrated Programme for Juvenile justice, etc. In most States, the Anganwadi Centres have become a platform for convergent delivery of programmes and processes targeted towards young children.

The Constitution has been amended through the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, to make education a fundamental right for all children between the age of 6 and 14 years, and early childhood care and education for children below 6 years a Directive Principle.

The Sarve Shiksha Abhiyaan has been launched in the year 2000 to bring about complete enrolment and universal retention by the year 2010.

The Government is also formulating a National Charter for Children that will be a comprehensive document for the survival, protection, and development needs of children. The Government have decided to constitute a National Commission for Children to oversee the over all operations of the laws and programmes relating to welfare of children in the country.